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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1961



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -

J.E. FANNON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1962.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1961.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

The report shows that the health of the district has remained satisfactory and that there has been no undue incidence of serious notifiable disease. There was an increased incidence of measles, however, as there was in 1960. It is not usual to find an increased incidence in consecutive years.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

It is interesting to note, but the fact may have no statistical significance, that the death rate in the district has again been low, as was the case last year.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I think you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

John D. Rawson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1961

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1962 - £1,316

Production of a penny rate: 1961/62 - £165 (estimate)
1962/63 - £165 (estimate)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,990

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Comparative Rates</u>
			(a) Sherborne R.D.
			(b) England & Wales
Total	36	48) Rate per 1,000	
Legitimate	30	48) resident pop:	
Illegitimate	6	Nil) = 14.0	14.7 17.4

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	18.7
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DEATHS

Total	37	26 Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.5	10.5	12.0
Deaths in infants under 1 year	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births		
Under 4 weeks	Nil	Nil = 11.9	11.9	21.4
(Illegitimate)				

		<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		1	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs		3	Nil	Nil	1
" " Other Cancer		12	5	19	13
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)		10	12	9	6
" " Other heart or vascular diseases		18	25	13	25
" " Influenza		2	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia		3	2	Nil	3
" " Motor vehicle accidents		3	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents		2	Nil	1	Nil
" " Suicide		Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services.

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding years.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to thirty nine years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>
Two treatments	299	(352)	(609)
Three treatments	313	(551)	(876)
Four treatments	462		

Diphtheria

Primary treatments	65	(95)	(115)
Booster treatments	35	(114)	(70)

Whooping Cough

Primary treatments	59	(90)	(96)
Booster treatments	13	(17)	(15)

Tetanus

Primary treatments	92	(214)	(99)
Booster treatments	29	(29)	(11)

Smallpox

Primary vaccinations	67	(87)	(73)
Revaccination	3	(15)	(5)

B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis

49

(-)

(19)

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - J.E. Fannon,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector, Refuse Disposal and Maintenance of the Council's sewage schemes.

Clerical Assistance - One Clerk (Part time)

WATER SUPPLY

The year saw the unlamented abandonment of the Hillfield springs source of supply.

Negotiation continued during the year toward the formation of a Water Board with the adjacent local Authorities.

Quantity

Adequate supplies have been maintained throughout the year, the Thornford borehole being the principal source of supply from the Council's sources supplemented from the Leigh supply.

A number of small private supplies remain in use in the district, the quality of which are doubtful as they arise from surface springs.

Water is taken from the Sherborne Urban District to supply parts of Castleton Parish.

All the Council's supplies are chlorinated and regular samples of the public and private supplies are taken for bacteriological examination and (where applicable) free chlorine estimation.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Alweston During the year the main sewerage scheme was completed.

Bradford Abbas The sewerage scheme for this parish was nearing completion at the end of the year. The provision of this scheme has resulted in large scale housing development in the parish.

Yetminster It is hoped and anticipated that during 1962 a scheme for the drainage of this parish will be commenced.

Oborne The drainage of this parish presents a serious problem. When the twelve Council houses were built here it was fully anticipated that a drainage scheme (in conjunction with the Sherborne Urban District Council) would be provided at an early date and very temporary drainage arrangements were made for these houses.

The time has come when these temporary arrangements are no longer tolerable, and in the absence of a scheme for the drainage of the whole village, new arrangements and works will have to be provided for the drainage of these twelve houses.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection The monthly collection has been maintained.

Towards the end of the year serious consideration was being given by the Council to providing a fortnightly collection throughout the whole district or, at least, in some of the more built up parishes.

The time has come when a fortnightly collection can be expected both on public health and amenity grounds, particularly in built up parishes.

Salvage The value of salvage sold during the year was £35 compared with £128 during the previous year. The reduced income is principally due to the difficulty in disposing of waste paper.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Continued)

Cesspool Emptying The contract for this work at the Council's housing sites has been continued and is operating satisfactorily.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Polluted ditches in the more populous villages continue to be a major nuisance and will continue to be so until sewerage schemes can be proceeded with.

The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961 has given wider powers to the Rivers Boards to control not only new discharges but also to improve conditions in respect of existing drainage systems.

When the Act comes into full operation it will be very useful as a means of dealing with polluted ditches and streams and will considerably reinforce the powers already existing under the Public Health Acts.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures are omitted)

	<u>No. of Premises on register</u>	<u>Inspect- ions.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	11
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	10
	37	25
No. of cases in which defects were:-		
Sanitary Conveniences	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Unsuitable or defective	2	2
	2	2

There was one case referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of Outworkers = Nil.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one open air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation.

Plans for a private swimming bath at a boarding school in this district were approved but it is not anticipated that the public will have any access to this.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Seventeen sites were licensed during the year under the Caravan Sites (Control and Development) Act, 1960. They were all for individual caravans, usually for temporary use and created no problem.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Twenty two visits and inspections were made at schools in respect of sanitation, meals facilities and water supplies.

During the year a new sanitary block was erected at Bishops Caundle School and connection made to the public sewer. Plans are in hand for similar improvements to Nether Compton School.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions.

HOUSING

Total No. of Houses in the district 1,994

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year 40
No. of inspections made 52

No. of informal notices served -

No. of informal notices complied with -

No. of statutory notices served 7

No. of statutory notices complied with 6

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1958 _____ 6

Action taken by the Local Authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made	Nil
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	1
Reconditioning	2
Other Action (Demolition)	Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during
the year _____ Nil

Slum Clearance

Very limited action was taken during the year with regard to slum clearance. An appreciable number of houses in the district are recognised as being unfit for habitation but in the absence of new houses being made available for re-housing, limited action only is practicable in enforcing closure or demolition of unfit property.

Some of these unfit houses are slowly being rendered fit. It is in respect to such property, largely, that discretionary improvement grants are sought and it is noted that only twenty such grants were sought last year compared with forty in the preceding year.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Twenty applications (compared with forty in 1960) were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act, twenty two applications were received in respect to standard grants compared with ten during the preceding year.

The provision of standard grants is undoubtedly a most valuable step towards making properties lacking basic amenities more habitable.

HOUSING (Continued)

Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing

Twenty seven new houses were built in the District by private enterprise, but, once again, none by the Council.

During the year, the Council did, however, recommence a building programme, deciding to build ~~eight~~¹⁴ a year (primarily for old people) for the next five years. This number falls below the number which I should like to see provided and which, in my opinion, is required. Nevertheless it is to be welcomed, if only to demonstrate the Council's appreciation of the housing needs of old people in the district.

Ninety five applicants were on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year, of which eighty were resident in the district, compared with ninety five and seventy four respectively, at the end of 1960.

Fifteen families were re-housed by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council 3

No. of 'dairies' in the District subject to registration 1

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration 3

Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculin Tested	10	5	15
Pasteurised	40	12	52

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	19
Canteens - School and workplace	2
Confectioners	2
Meat and Fish	1
Grocers	-
Mixed Stores	20
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	3
Food Factories	3
Stalls (Mobile shops)	1
Other (Slaughterhouses)	1

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	20
Sausages & Prepared Meats	1
Fish and Chips	Nil

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test _____ Nil

No. of above mentioned premises inspected during the year _____ 24

No. of inspections carried out _____ 31

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	139	-	-	319	-
Number Inspected	139	-	-	319	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis &</u> <u>Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	25	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	7.8%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration except in the case of large quantities of meat or meat carcasses when it is sent to a knackers yard.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,118
Total No. of informal notices served	21
Total No. of informal notices complied with	19
Total No. of statutory notices served	4
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

No information has been received during the year under the Radioactive Substances Act, indicating premises where radioactive material is in use or in respect to authorised arrangements made for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place in the position.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

	Total Cases
	Notified.

Measles	47
Pneumonia	1
Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (Continued)

Tuberculosis -	<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
	3	-

Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

